

CLAIMS

1. A method for mounting a non-stereo item in an automobile, the method comprising inserting the non-stereo item into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile.
2. A method for mounting at least one gauge in an automobile, the method comprising inserting the gauge(s) into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile.
3. A method for mounting a gauge cluster in an automobile, the method comprising inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile.
4. A method for mounting a gauge cluster in an automobile, the method comprising:

connecting at least one wire of the gauge cluster to at least one wire of the automobile, so as to facilitate electrical communication between the automobile and the gauge cluster; and

inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile.
5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein connecting at least one wire comprises connecting a plurality of wires.
6. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot comprises inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of nominally the same size as the gauge cluster.
7. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the DIN stereo slot comprises one of a 1" high DIN stereo slot, a 1.5" high DIN stereo slot, a 2" high DIN stereo slot and a 3" high DIN stereo slot.
8. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the gauge cluster comprises at least one gauge having a digital readout.

9. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the gauge cluster comprises a plurality of gauges having digital readouts.
10. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the gauge cluster comprises a voltage gauge, an oil pressure gauge, and a water temperature gauge.
11. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile comprises inserting the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot such that at least one detent inhibits removal of the gauge cluster from the DIN stereo slot.
12. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile comprises inserting the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot such that at least one detent formed upon the gauge cluster inhibits removal of the gauge cluster from the DIN stereo slot.
13. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile comprises inserting the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot such that at least one detent locks the gauge cluster in the DIN stereo slot.
14. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein inserting the gauge cluster into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile comprises inserting the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot such that at least one detent formed upon the gauge cluster locks the gauge cluster in the DIN stereo slot.
15. The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising installing in the automobile at least one sensor that is electronically compatible with at least one gauge of the gauge cluster.

16. A non-stereo device comprising an enclosure that is configured for mounting into a DIN stereo slot of an automobile.
17. A gauge comprising an enclosure that is configured for mounting into a DIN stereo slot of an automobile.
18. A gauge cluster comprising an enclosure that is configured for mounting into a DIN stereo slot of an automobile.
19. A gauge cluster comprising:
 - a plurality of gauges;
 - an enclosure; and
 - wherein the enclosure is configured for mounting into a DIN stereo slot of the automobile.
20. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one wire configured to provide electrical communication between at least one gauge of the gauge cluster and at least one sensor.
21. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, wherein the enclosure is configured for mounting within at least one of a 1" high DIN stereo slot, a 1.5" high DIN stereo slot, a 2" high DIN stereo slot and a 3" high DIN stereo slot.
22. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, wherein the enclosure is configured for mounting within a 2" high DIN stereo slot.
23. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, wherein the gauge cluster comprises a voltage gauge, an oil pressure gauge, and a water temperature gauge.

24. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one detent configured to inhibit removal of the gauge cluster from the DIN stereo slot.
25. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one metallic leaf spring detent configured to inhibit removal of the gauge cluster from the DIN stereo slot.
26. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one locking detent configured to inhibit removal of the gauge cluster from the DIN stereo slot.
27. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one metallic leaf spring locking detent configured to inhibit removal of the gauge cluster from the DIN stereo slot.
28. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one locking detent formed upon the enclosure thereof, the locking detent(s) comprising:

a leaf spring detent; and

a locking tab formed upon the leaf spring detent and configured to engage a portion of an automobile DIN stereo slot such that the gauge cluster is locked into the DIN stereo slot when the leaf spring detent is extended and such that the gauge cluster is not locked into the DIN stereo slot when the leaf spring detent is depressed.

29. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, wherein the gauge cluster comprises at least one gauge having a digital readout.
30. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, wherein the gauge cluster comprises a plurality of gauges having digital readouts.

31. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising at least one sensor that is electronically compatible with at least one gauge of the gauge cluster.
32. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising a bezel configured to limit movement of the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot.
33. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising a generally rectangular bezel configured to limit movement of the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot.
34. The gauge cluster as recited in claim 19, further comprising a generally oval bezel configured to limit movement of the gauge cluster into the DIN stereo slot.
35. A method for manufacturing a gauge cluster, the method comprising forming an enclosure of the gauge cluster that is configured for mounting within a DIN stereo slot of an automobile.
36. A locking detent for facilitating mounting a device within a DIN stereo slot of an automobile, the locking detent comprising:

a leaf spring detent; and

a locking tab formed upon the leaf spring detent and configured to engage a portion of an automobile DIN stereo slot such that the device is locked into the DIN stereo slot when the leaf spring detent is extended and such that the device is not locked into the DIN stereo slot when the leaf spring detent is depressed.

37. The locking detent as recited in claim 36, wherein the locking tab comprises a portion of the leaf spring which has been bent away from a remainder of the leaf spring.